

REMARKS

Claims 10-13 and 16-28 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 10, 17, and 24 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found at least in Figure 6 of the specification as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Personal Interview

Applicant respectfully acknowledges and appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives during the personal interview conducted on January 7, 2010. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated herein by reference.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 10-13 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,261,883 to Hood et al. (Hood); and Claims 16 and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hood, as applied to the claims above, and further in view of United States Patent Number 5,462,256 to Minick (Minick).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reason(s).

Applicants have amended independent Claims 10, 17, and 24 to recite a cartridge cassette comprising, among other features, ***upstream and downstream valves disposed on a common side of a cartridge cassette***. Applicants respectfully submit, as discussed during the personal interview and affirmed by the Examiner's Interview Summary dated January 14, 2010, that Hood and Minick do not teach or suggest upstream and downstream valves disposed on a common side of a cartridge cassette.

Rather, as shown in Figures 2, 5, 6, and 7 of Hood, the upstream and downstream valves are located on different sides of the cartridge cassette. Furthermore, as shown in Figures 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 of Minick, the upstream and downstream valves are located on opposite sides of the cartridge cassette. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Hood and Minick, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the upstream and downstream valves are disposed on a common side of the cartridge cassette.

For the reason discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Hood and Minick, alone or in any combination thereof, do not teach or otherwise suggest the invention recited by Claims 10, 17 and 24.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 10, 17 and 24 are not rendered obvious in view of Hood or the combination of Hood and Minick and should therefore be deemed allowable.

Claims 11-13 and 16 depend from Claim 10, Claims 18-23 depend from Claim 17, and 25-28 depend from Claim 24. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reason(s) Claims 10, 17 and 24, respectively, are allowable as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

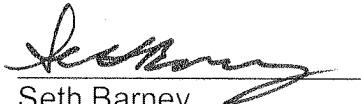
Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

In particular, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, allowance of Claims 10-13 and 16-28, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 029714.00027.**

Respectfully submitted,


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